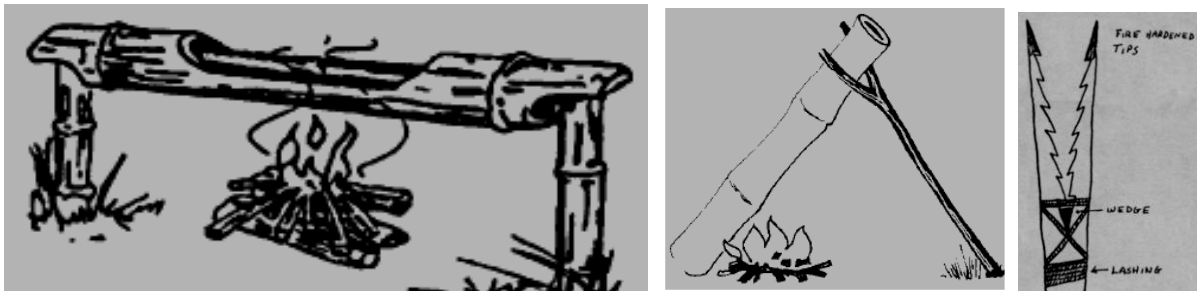
A Long-Term Survival Guide – Things To Make From Bamboo:

When you are considering which useful plants to grow for survival purposes, bamboo should be at the top of your list. No other plant has as many uses as bamboo. It can be made into an endless number of practical items, from houses to house wares, from tools to tables, from beds to bicycles, from fences to farm buildings, from rafts to rice cookers, from spinning wheels to waterwheels, and from weapons to water containers. You can make any of the stick camp equipment, the stick bridges, or the stick tower designs (in my other articles) from bamboo.



Here are two types of bamboo cooking containers, and one type of bamboo fishing spear.

In survival situations, aside from the simple and obvious things you can make from bamboo, such as cooking pots, spears, and shelters, there are many you may not have thought of yet, but which people who live in the tropics see every day.

To help you see just how many things this one plant can be made into, here are some pictures of things made from bamboo, but these are just a fraction of the possibilities, and people are still inventing new uses, such as bamboo plywood, or “plyboo”.

Bamboo cups, and bamboo canteens.

Bamboo Fire Saw, for friction-based fire-starting.

Bamboo skewers with grilled fish, and bamboo pole with rotisserie suckling pig.

Bamboo skewers, and bamboo food steamer.

Bamboo pitchers, bamboo eating utensils, and bamboo kitchen implements.

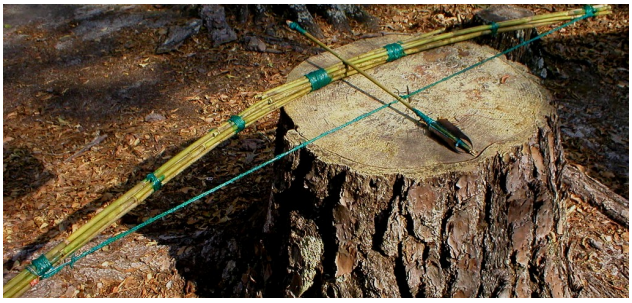
Bamboo rice cooker (contains rice and water, wrapped in a banana leaf).

Another bamboo rice cooker, made from a split bamboo section.

Bamboo knife, and bamboo spear-head.

Bamboo fishing spears.

Bamboo Survival Staff



Bamboo bundle bow, and bamboo and wood crossbow.

Another bamboo bundle bow.

Bamboo Arrows

Bamboo archery quivers.

Bamboo ladders, and close-up of ladder joint.

Bamboo ladders can have two main support poles, or just one, like these examples.

Bamboo Arbor, bamboo privacy screen, and folding bamboo furniture.

Basic bamboo chair, more ornate chair, and one type of bamboo lawn chair.

Simple Bamboo Bench Chair, and Fancy Bamboo Bench Chair

Bamboo Patio Furniture

Bamboo stool, bamboo table, and more complex hexagonal table.

Table (made from bamboo pylons), and portable six-sided bamboo table.

Bamboo bed frame, and bamboo living room set.

Bamboo bunk beds, and bamboo four-post bed, with insect netting.

Bamboo Shelves

Bamboo hammocks, made from a single large stalk of split and woven bamboo.

Bamboo hammock stands, supporting the single-stalk bamboo hammocks.

Bamboo Deck

Bamboo Flea Trap, and Bamboo Mouse Trap

Bamboo Fish Trap

Bamboo Live-Catch Animal Trap

Bamboo animal pens, for chickens and small livestock.

Bamboo livestock shelters.

Bamboo livestock corrals and fencing.

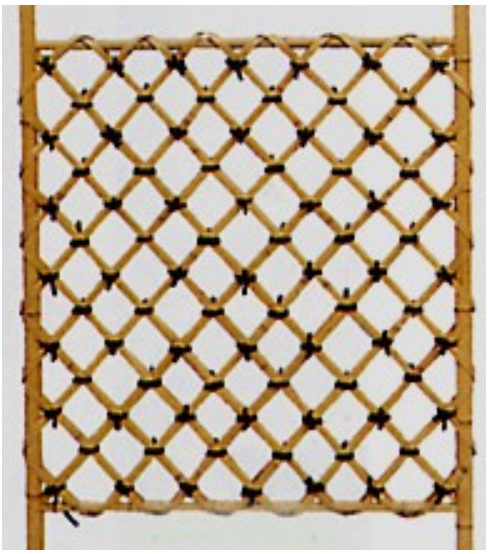
Another bamboo livestock corral, and bamboo retaining wall.

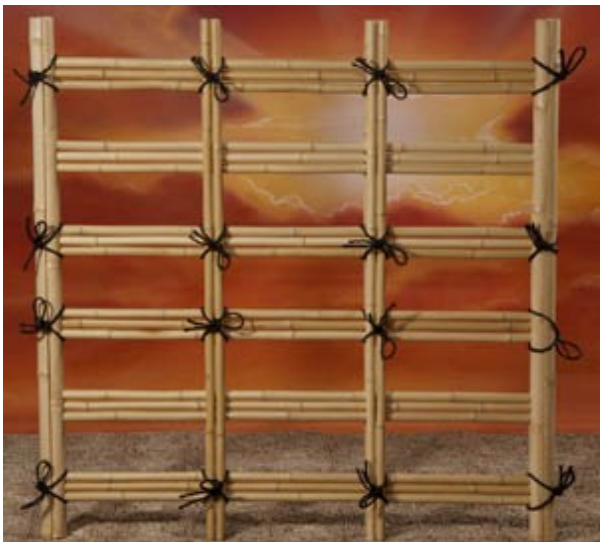
Bamboo tomato cages.

Bamboo pyramid-style plant trellis.

Bamboo A-frame style plant trellis.

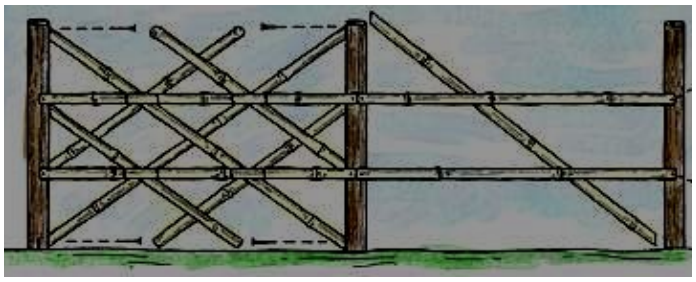
Bamboo fences:





Bamboo fences can be made in many different styles, as these examples illustrate.

Bamboo fences made from split bamboo.



Another bamboo fence design.

Bamboo picket fences.

Bamboo privacy fences.

More bamboo privacy fence designs.

Bamboo arbor, and bamboo tripod.

Bamboo teepee support poles.

Bamboo baskets, and bamboo crates.

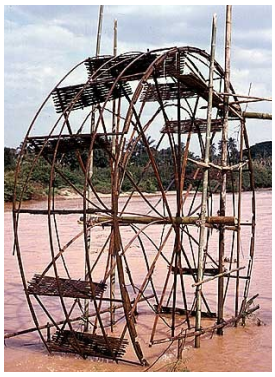
Bamboo flashlight, and bamboo angle-head style flashlight.

Bamboo rakes, bamboo bird-house, and bamboo bird feeder.

Bamboo tree house, with bamboo access ramp, and bamboo bird cages.

Two styles of bicycles, crafted mostly out of bamboo.

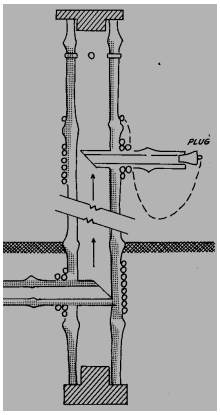
Bamboo bike trailer.

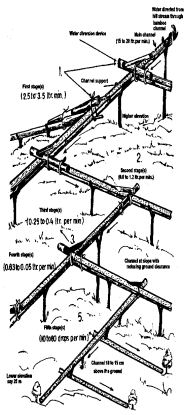


Bamboo water-wheels.

Bamboo water wheel, and the split bamboo troughs (which carry water to a nearby garden).

Bamboo pipes that carry water downhill, and support poles (made from small trees).





Bamboo fountain design, bamboo fountain, and bamboo drip irrigation system.

Simple bamboo balancing bridges, with handrails.

More advanced bamboo footbridge, and bamboo suspension bridge.

Bamboo free-standing arched bridges.

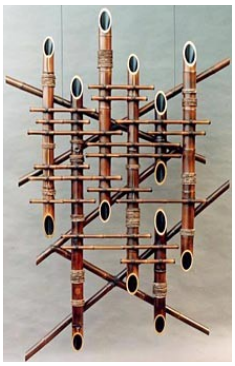
Bamboo pylon bridge (pylons are filled with rocks, for stability).

Bamboo rafts, and bamboo raft with elevated decking.

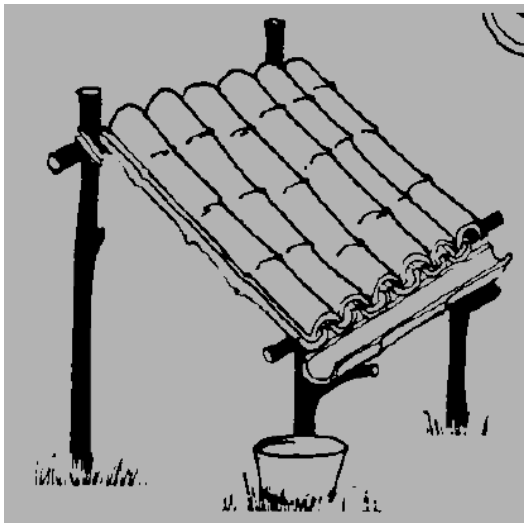
Bamboo raft, with overhead cover, and bamboo boat, with thatched cabin.

Bamboo Houseboats

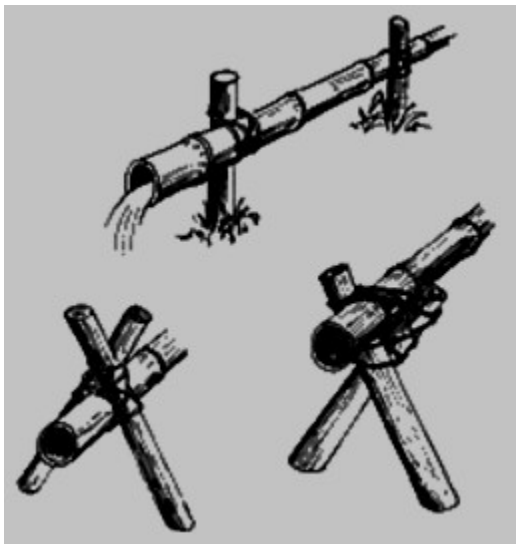
Large bamboo sailing raft, with cabin.



Bamboo cradle, bamboo coffin, and bamboo artwork.



Bamboo rain catch, and / or bamboo roofing design.



Bamboo water pipes, with bamboo supports.

Bamboo Windmills

Bamboo spinning wheel (made of split bamboo and wood). Bamboo geodesic dome.

Bamboo gazebo, and bamboo outdoor kitchen.

Bamboo roof truss, and bamboo tower truss.

And of course, the bamboo hang-glider.

So if you are convinced that bamboo should have a place in your long-term survival plans, it is easy to acquire. There are lots of different kinds of bamboo, and most nurseries sell several different species. You can also find it growing somewhere, and acquire some of the roots, but you may have to chop them out of the ground with an axe.

There are two basic types of bamboo, one that grows in clumps, and one that spreads by sending out runners. Both kinds can be had in species that grow to different heights and thicknesses. My personal favorite is the giant timber bamboo, which can grow 120 feet high, and over one foot thick, and it also spreads by runner.

Once established, bamboo can be almost impossible to get rid of, so be careful where you decide to plant it. I like to keep mine in large containers, made from plastic barrels, and divide them into two plants every time they get big enough. This way I have an endless supply of starter plants to plant where I like, without having to buy any more, and without having to struggle to dig up the roots.